POC 14 VIET S.

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 908

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ACTION EA-15

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 UPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-04 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12
AID-28 RSR-01 /124 W
080870

R 141318Z JUL 70
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3336
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11247

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARAS 4 & 5)

ROME FOR LODGE

SUBJECT: UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS

1. EIGHTEEN SLATES FILED FOR UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS AS CANDIDACY FILING PERIOD CLOSED AT MIDNIGHT JULY 13. THEIR VARIETY PROMISES AN INTERESTING RACE.

2. SLATES INCLUDE SEVERAL HEADED BY PROMINENT CATHOLICS AND AT LEAST FOUR LED BY STAUNCH OPPOSITIONISTS. ONE OF THE STRONGER OPPOSITION GROUPINGS IS HEADED BY PROMINENT AN QUANG LAYMAN AND ATTORNEY VU VAN MAU AND INCLUDES OTHER MODERATE AN QUANG ELEMENTS AND FORMER GENERAL TON THAT DINH.

3. AFTER A KWEEK OF ON-AGAIN OFF-AGAIN VACILLATION, LEADING OPOSITION FIGURE SENATOR TRAN VAN DON DECIDED NOT TO RUN. LADY SENATOR MRS. NGUYEN PHUOC DAI WILL CARRY THE COLORS OF DON'S NATIONAL SALVATION FRONT INTO THE CAMPAIGN. PHAN-BA CAM'S HAT IS IN THE

Saigon 112 7/14/70

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Isenberg DATE 1/22/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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RING, DESPITE HIS RECELT STROKE. AN QUANG LOWER HOUSE DEPUTY NGUYEN DAI BANG HEADS A FOURTH OPPOSITIONIST LIST.

4. PRESIDENT THIEU'S NATIONAL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT (NSDF) DID NOT ENTER A SLATE AND ITS FAILURE TO DO SO MAY WELL MARK THE DEMISE OF THE ORGANIZATION, DE FACTO IF NOT DE JURE. ELEMENTS OF THE COMPONENT PARTIES OR FACTIONS APPEAR ON AT LEAST FIVE LISTS AND WILL COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER. NSDF ELEMENTS APPEAR ON LISTS LED BY TRUONG CONG CUU (NHAN XA FACTION); TRUONG VIN LE (ANOTHER NHAN XA FACTION PLUS VU HONG KHAN VNQDD); HUYNH VAN CAO (GREATER SOLIDARITY FORCE); NGUYEN GIA HIEN (GREATER SOLIDARITY FORCE); AND NGUYEN VAN CANH (REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIET).

5. TWO SLATES WILL HAVE SUPPORT FROM OTHER ELEMENTS MORE OR LESS ACCEPTABLE TO PRESIDENT THIEU. CAO'S SLATE WILL HAVE CVT LEADER TRAN QUOC BUU'S SUPPORT. NGUYEN NGOC HUY'S LIST IS A PURE PROGRESSIVE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT SLATE; THE PNM HAS SUPPORTED THE GVN ON FOREIGN POLICY, AND ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN OPPOSITIONIST ON DOMESTIC POLICY, PRESIDENT THIEU HAS SPOKEN WELL OF IT.

6. TWO OTHER LISTS HEADED BY PRESTIGIOUS INDIVIDUALS CAN ALSO EXPECT SOME DEGREE OF GVN FAVOR; I. E., THOSE HEADED BY UPPER HOUSE CHAIRMAN NGUYEN VAN HUYEN (WHO HAS FORMER PRIME MINISTER TRAN VAN HUONG AS A SLATE PARTNER) AND BY MINISTER OF STATE NGUYEN TIEN HY (ALTHOUGH AT FIRST GLANCE HIS SLATE IS NOT IMPRESSIVE).

7. AT THIS POINT OUR INFORMATION IS STILL INCOMPLETE AND WE HAVE NOT YET ANALYZED INDIVIDUAL SLATES IN DEPTH. OUR PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION WOULD PLACE AMONG THE STRONGEST CONTENDERS THE LISTS OF HUYNH VAN CAO, NGUYEN VAN HUYEN, AND VU VAN MAU. HOWEVER, SINCE BOTH THE CATHOLIC AND OPPOSITIONIST VOTE WILL BE SPLIT, SURPRISES COULD OCCUR. WITH SEVERAL STRONG CATHOLIC CONTENDERS, SOME CATHOLIC SLATES COULD CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT, OPENING THE DOOR TO A DARKER HORSE.
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